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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/655,987	09/06/2000	Calvin B. Ward	54391	9378
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Law Offices of Calvin B Ward 18 Crow Canyon Court Suite 305 San Ramon, CA 94583			DICUS, TAMRA	
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	09/655,987	WARD, CALVIN B.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Tamra L. Dicus	1774

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 July 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8 and 21-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-8 and 21-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

**DETAILED ACTION**

Although the Board affirmed all the claims except 19 and 20 in favor of the Appellant (02-08-07), the Board also remanded the Examiner to find the method of producing the article in the child (divisional 10/278,190) of the remaining reversed claims 1-8 and 21-28 of the parent. Thus in updating the search for the child case, art was found applicable to the parent case and could not be ignored. Thus, to be consistent, the following rejections are now introduced:

In view of the appeal brief filed on 04-27-06, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. A new ground of rejection is set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

- (1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,
- (2) request reinstatement of the appeal.

If reinstatement of the appeal is requested, such request must be accompanied by a supplemental appeal brief, but no new amendments, affidavits (37 CFR 1.130, 1.131 or 1.132) or other evidence are permitted. See 37 CFR 1.193(b)(2).

The finality of the Office action mailed is hereby withdrawn in view of the new ground of rejection set forth below.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it

Art Unit: 1774

pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as based on a disclosure, which is not enabling. The hydrophobic barriers are critical or essential to the practice of the invention, but not included in the claim(s) is not enabled by the disclosure. See *In re Mayhew*, 527 F.2d 1229, 188 USPQ 356 (CCPA 1976). Claims 1 and 25 lacks essential subject matter in the claim because per Applicant's instant claimed specification, hydrophobic barriers are what prevent liquid from moving between cells, not boundaries or the cells themselves (Further see Applicant's page 2, lines 14-20 describing just cells for containing liquid (absent hydrophobic barriers), then one embodiment where cells are constructed by providing hydrophobic barriers (absent any liquid containment), and in another embodiment hydrophobic layer has a plurality of pores (absent a plurality of cells) that allow liquid spilled on the layer to penetrate and be absorbed by the absorbent layer. See further on page 3, lines 10-13 to an impregnation of barrier material to entrap liquid.). Further, the originally filed specification is absent disclosure of cells having boundaries.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Art Unit: 1774

It is not clear if the barriers "defining" a plurality of cells for containing liquid comprise cells or if there are other elements that are comprised within the barrier that functions as claimed. The word "defining" is not specific enough to detail how the barriers are "defined". Normal language to use is "comprising" if it is intended for the barriers to have cells within. It's not clear how many elements are employed for the liquid containment, i.e. the barriers or the cells or both because if the barriers are hydrophobic, and lacks the affinity for water, how do they contain liquid if the liquid is water? If the liquid is water, then it is not logical for the barriers to be hydrophobic. Further see Applicant's page 2, lines 14-20 describing just cells for containing liquid (absent hydrophobic barriers), then one embodiment where cells are constructed by providing hydrophobic barriers (absent any liquid containment), and in another embodiment hydrophobic layer has a plurality of pores (absent a plurality of cells) that allow liquid spilled on the layer to penetrate and be absorbed by the absorbent layer. See further on page 3, lines 10-13 to an impregnation of barrier material to entrap liquid. It is also not clear how the liquid is contained in a cell or barrier if the absorbent material already contains the liquid.

Claims 1 and 25 recite the limitation "the boundaries" (see claim 1, last two lines). There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. There is nothing indicated prior to the point in the claim(s) to limit cells having boundaries.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 3,342,613 to Schelhorn et al.

Schelhorn teaches a protective covering for protecting an exposed surface: a water-impermeable electrostatically charged sheet (Schelhorn, 10, FIG. 2 and associated text, col. 2, line 25, waterproof and impermeable are equivalent to water-impermeable characteristics), and an absorbent layer spot bonded (instant claim 27) to the sheet 10 (Schelhorn, 12, FIG. 2 and associated text) wherein said bottom surface of said absorbent layer being in contact with said top surface of said electrostatically charged sheet. Claim 27 is anticipated.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2, 7, 25, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 3,342,613 to Schelhorn et al. in view of Lake (US 3,409,199).

Schelhorn teaches a protective covering for protecting an exposed surface: a water-impermeable electrostatically charged sheet (Schelhorn, 10, FIG. 2 and associated text, col. 2, line 25, waterproof and impermeable are equivalent to water-impermeable characteristics), and an absorbent layer spot bonded to the sheet 10 (Schelhorn, 12, FIG. 2 and associated text) wherein said bottom surface of said absorbent layer being in contact with said top surface of said electrostatically charged sheet.

Schelhorn teaches the protective covering of instant Claim 1, wherein said absorbent layer comprises paper (Schelhorn, col. 1, lines 55-60) (instant claim 20).

Schelhorn does not teach an absorbent layer comprising hydrophobic or liquid impermeable barriers, or being divided into cells where liquid is prevented from moving between cells as per instant claims 1, 7, 25, and 28.

Lake teaches a packaging food moisture-absorbing tray having an absorbent layer (3:50-51, plastic foam material) being divided into cells (3:60-61, recesses entraps and retain liquid from poultry) and liquid being prevented from moving between cells (3:50-53, the juices will not penetrate the tray beyond the confines of recesses). Lake discloses an inherently hydrophobic character of plastic material from which the tray is fabricated, the plastic material is closed-cell foam polyurethane or polystyrene (3:45-75, 4:1-15). Such description and as illustrated in FIG. 5 embraces hydrophobic barriers (closed cell polymer foam material) defining cells for containing liquid (recesses) (as Applicant's instant specification discloses barriers made from any hydrophobic material on page 3, lines 14-15 and that the barriers are of plastic page 2, line 18 and that the cells are made by dividing the absorbent layer by the barriers).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have modified the absorbent layer of Schelhorn to include divided cells as claimed because Lake taught liquid juices would be retained in the cells to prevent the bottom of the tray from becoming wet and maintaining the strength of the tray structure and thus act as hydrophobic barriers defining a plurality of cells for containing liquid (1:55-68, 3:29-61, 4:1-35).

Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 4,992,121 to Rubino in view of US 4,536,433 to Sagi et al.

Rubino teaches a method of protecting an exposed surface (a support surface to which an object and intermediate sheet are electrostatically adhered, thus construed as an exposed surface because the object and sheet are separately affixed prior to application to the support surface-5: 60-68) providing an object/display such as a poster of paper, felt (embraces fibrous mat), or any plastic (inherently absorbent layer, 5:20-45) bonded to an electrostatically charged foam (2:35-60, 5:20-40). The electrostatically charged sheet has an electrostatic charge obtained by rubbing fiber pads on the surface of an electrostatically chargeable intermediate polymeric sheet. The object and intermediate electrostatically charged laminate is placed on a support of wood, glass, or a door and stays on a support surface for at least one month without sliding or falling.

Rubino generally teaches electrostatic foam sheet attached to an absorbent of paper, felt, or plastic and the absorbent can be virtually any plastic (5:44-45), but does not disclose this layer as a water-impermeable electrostatically charged sheet.

Sagi teaches generally discloses a moisture-absorbent layer (while teaching it was known for a moisture-absorbent to be of pulp material- 1:20) protected by a water-impervious sheet

Art Unit: 1774

superimposed thereon for protecting the underlying articles using the absorbent layer to act as moisture barrier (1:50-68, 2:25-40, 3:15-20, Sagi). The water-impervious sheet has a high coefficient of friction that does not allow an absorbent pad from slipping or slide out of position (thus inherently containing an electrostatic charge).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have modified the article of Rubino to attach a water-impermeable electrostatically charged sheet to the absorbent layer because Sagi teaches the sheet acts both as a protective sheet to prevent liquid from passing to an absorbent acting as a moisture barrier and to prevent slipping or sliding of an absorbent layer to stay in place with the pad and thus also serving as a protective feature (1:50-68, 2:25-40, 3:15-20, Sagi).

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 3,3,42,613 to Schelhorn et al. in view of Lake (US 3,409,199) and further in view of Grone.

The combination is relied upon above.

Neither Schelhorn nor Lake teaches an absorbent layer of open cell foam per instant claim 3.

Grone on page 7, lines 10-16 teach an absorbent paper insert layer comprising open-cell plastic foam for absorbing liquids from meat juice (page 2, lines 10-25) used in food packaging (Abstract, Figure).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have modified the method of the combination to use or substitute an absorbent paper layer comprising open cell

Art Unit: 1774

foam because Grone teaches absorbent paper layers comprising open cell foam also absorbs liquid from meat juice (page 2, page 7, Abstract, Figure, Grone).

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 3,3,42,613 to Schelhorn et al. in view of Lake (US 3,409,199), Grone and further in view of Milani.

The combination is relied upon above.

The combination does not teach an electrostatically charged open cell foam as per instant claim 4.

Milani teaches an absorbent structure comprising porous (open cell) foams in certain zones/layers and electrostatically charging fiber webs, films, and foams in addition to liquid absorbent material particles within the absorbent structure to attract the absorbent particles to the web or fibers (or foams) (polarity phenomenon discussed as an example of how the attraction occurs at 13:28-33) and thus improving the liquid distribution within the absorbent article. See 12:20-25, 13:20-50.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have modified the absorbent layer of the combination to include electrostatically charging an open cell foam because Milani teaches absorbent foams and particle materials are attracted to each other via opposite polarity improving liquid distribution within an absorbent article (1:1-30, 2:10-57, 8:1-25, 12:20-25, 13:20-50, Milani).

Art Unit: 1774

Claims 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 3,3,42,613 to Schelhorn et al. in view of Lake (US 3,409,199), Grone, and further in view of Tanner.

The combination is relied upon above.

The combination does not teach a fibrous mat or that it is electrostatically charged.

However, Tanner teaches a similar construction of impervious polymer films attached to an absorbent fibrous mat article (col. 13, lines 55-60), said absorbent article having use as a package pad for food such as poultry to absorb juices or liquids (col. 1, lines 45-68), where when using a low density fibrous mat containing electrostatic attracted fibers (when fibers 14 are deposited using electrostatic attraction of fibers 14, a low-density fibrous mat 110 is created, col. 14, lines 32-41, functioning as and equivalent to a fibrous mat is electrostatically charged), results such as a high absorbent capacity, high wicking rate, and rapid expansion when wetted by an aqueous fluid are achieved.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have modified the method of Schelhorn to include an electrostatically charged fibrous mat as claimed because Tanner teaches it was known in the art to use an absorbent article for poultry packaging whereby an electrostatically charged fibrous mat has the following improvements: low density, high absorbency, high wicking, and rapid expansion when wetted by an aqueous fluid (col. 1, lines 45-68, col. 14, lines 32-41, Abstract, Tanner).

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 3,3,42,613 to Schelhorn et al. in view of Lake (US 3,409,199) and further in view of Isohata.

The combination is relied upon above.

The combination does not teach further comprising a hydrophobic layer as per instant claim 8.

Ishohata teaches a food tray providing a top hydrophobic sheet with pores therein (Ishohata, 6 and 7, FIG. 1 and associated text, col. 2, lines 50-65, col. 3, lines 1-40, the liquid-semipermeable sheet is made of liquid-impermeable film 6 that does not have a water-absorbing property and water permeability (synonomous with hydrophobic) further having pores 7 within to allow the passage of liquid to be absorbed by the underlying absorbent 4, thus functioning as applicant's claimed hydrophobic layer allowing liquid penetrating it and be absorbed by absorbent layer per instant claim 16); providing a pulp (paper) absorbent layer (4, FIG. 1 and associated text) wherein said hydrophobic layer is bonded to top of an adhesive layer.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have modified the combination to have included an hydrophobic layer as claimed in order to advantageously direct the food drip to the underlying absorbent sheet, further preventing meat from being discolored (FIG. 1 and associated text, col. 2, col. 3, col. 4, Ishohata).

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schelhorn in view of Grone.

Schelhorn teaches a protective covering for protecting an exposed surface: a water-impermeable electrostatically charged sheet (Schelhorn, 10, FIG. 2 and associated text, col. 2, line 25, waterproof and impermeable are equivalent to water-impermeable characteristics), and an absorbent layer spot bonded (instant claim 27) to the sheet 10 (Schelhorn, 12, FIG. 2 and

associated text) wherein said bottom surface of said absorbent layer being in contact with said top surface of said electrostatically charged sheet.

Schelhorn teaches a non-woven or paper moisture absorbent layer, but not an open cell foam as per instant claim 21.

Grone on page 7, lines 10-16 teach an absorbent paper insert layer comprising open-cell plastic foam for absorbing liquids from meat juice (page 2, lines 10-25) used in food packaging (Abstract, Figure).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have modified the absorbent of Schelhorn to use or substitute an absorbent paper layer comprising open cell foam because Grone teaches absorbent paper layers comprising open cell foam also absorbs liquid from meat juice (page 2, page 7, Abstract, Figure, Grone).

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 3,3,42,613 to Schelhorn et al. in view of Grone, applied to instant claim 21, and further in view of Milani.

The combination is relied upon above.

The combination does not teach an electrostatically charged open cell foam as per instant claim 22.

Milani teaches an absorbent structure comprising porous (open cell) foams in certain zones/layers and electrostatically charging fiber webs, films, and foams in addition to liquid absorbent material particles within the absorbent structure to attract the absorbent particles to the web or fibers (or foams) (polarity phenomenon discussed as an example of how the attraction

Art Unit: 1774

occurs at 13:28-33) and thus improving the liquid distribution within the absorbent article. See 12:20-25, 13:20-50.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have modified the absorbent layer of the combination to include electrostatically charging an open cell foam because Milani teaches absorbent foams and particle materials are attracted to each other via opposite polarity improving liquid distribution within an absorbent article (1:1-30, 2:10-57, 8:1-25, 12:20-25, 13:20-50, Milani).

Claims 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schelhorn in view of Tanner.

Schelhorn teaches a protective covering for protecting an exposed surface: a water-impermeable electrostatically charged sheet (Schelhorn, 10, FIG. 2 and associated text, col. 2, line 25, waterproof and impermeable are equivalent to water-impermeable characteristics), and an absorbent layer spot bonded (instant claim 27) to the sheet 10 (Schelhorn, 12, FIG. 2 and associated text) wherein said bottom surface of said absorbent layer being in contact with said top surface of said electrostatically charged sheet.

Schelhorn does not teach a fibrous mat or that it is electrostatically charged (instant claims 23-24).

However, Tanner teaches a similar construction of impervious polymer films attached to an absorbent fibrous mat (non-woven) article (col. 13, lines 55-60), said absorbent article having use as a package pad for food such as poultry to absorb juices or liquids (col. 1, lines 45-68), where when using a low density fibrous mat containing electrostatic attracted fibers (when fibers

14 are deposited using electrostatic attraction of fibers 14, a low-density fibrous mat 110 is created, col. 14, lines 32-41, functioning as and equivalent to a fibrous mat is electrostatically charged), results such as a high absorbent capacity, high wicking rate, and rapid expansion when wetted by an aqueous fluid are achieved.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have modified the absorbent layer Schelhorn to substitute or use an electrostatically charged fibrous mat as claimed because Tanner teaches it was known in the art to use an absorbent article for poultry packaging whereby an electrostatically charged fibrous mat has the following improvements: low density, high absorbency, high wicking, and rapid expansion when wetted by an aqueous fluid (col. 1, lines 45-68, col. 14, lines 32-41, Abstract, Tanner). Additionally, Schelhorn suggests the absorbent is of non-woven material and Tanner teaches an absorbent layer also comprising the specific non-woven fibrous mat for the same absorptive purposes.

Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Isohata in view of USPN 3,342,613 to Schelhorn et al.

Isohata teaches a liquid-absorbent sheet and method for storing food. Isohata teaches providing a water-impermeable sheet (Isohata, 6 and 7, FIG. 1 and associated text, col. 2, lines 50-65, col. 3, lines 1-40, the liquid-semipermeable sheet is made of liquid-impermeable film 6 that does not have a water-absorbing property and water permeability further having pores 7 within to allow the passage of liquid to be absorbed by the underlying absorbent 4, thus functioning as applicant's claimed hydrophobic layer allowing liquid spilled on it and absorbed by absorbent layer per), providing a pulp (paper) absorbent layer (4, FIG. 1 and associated text)

Art Unit: 1774

wherein said bottom surface of said absorbent layer being in contact with a top surface of a liquid permeable polyethylene sheet (5, FIG. 1 and associated text, 4:21-25). Absorbent layer comprising open cell foam and plurality of cells are also employed by Isohata (5:13-24 discloses continuous cell type foam, which embraces open cell foam and the continuous cell type foam absorbs drips/water and can keep them (implying the drips/water) therein embraces a plurality of cells for containing liquid).

While Isohata does not explicitly state "an exposed surface", an exposed surface is construed to be any surface that is exposed such as the surface during the storage of food as it must sit on the upper surface such as a table or panel in a refrigerator, thereby protecting the surface that the invention is laid upon when the bottom surface of sheet 5 rests on exposed surfaces.

Isohata does not teach polyethylene sheet 5 is electrostatically charged (instant claim 26).

Schelhorn teaches an electrostatically charged polyethylene sheet where the sheet is electrostatically treated on its surface and at the interface of an adjacent absorbent layer to improve the adhesive bonding characteristics (col. 2, lines 25-30). The absorbent layer and plastic film of Schelhorn is also spot bonded.

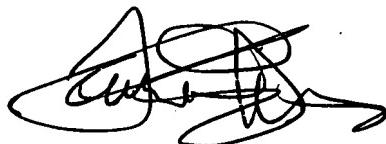
It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have modified the absorbent layer of Isohata to apply electrostatic charge to the lower sheet of Isohata thereby resulting in the claimed electrostatically charged sheet because Schelhorn teaches an improvement in the adhesive bonding characteristics (col. 2, lines 25-30, Schelhorn).

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tamra L. Dicus whose telephone number is 571-272-1519. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00-4:30 p.m., alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Milton Cano can be reached on 571-272-1398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Tamra L. Dicus  
Examiner  
Art Unit 1774

June 11, 2007



BRUCE H. HESS  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
GROUP 1300